

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19057 101157Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 SS-20

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /069 W  
----- 083912

R 100951Z DEC 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8844

UNCLAS BANGKOK 19057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, SOCI, TH

SUBJ: DEATH OF THE SUPREME PATRIARCH

1. THE SUPREME PATRIARCH SINCE JULY 1972, SOMDEJ PHRA ARIYAWONGSAKATAYAN, DIED FRIDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 7, FOLLOWING A LONG ILLNESS WITH CANCER. THE SUPREME PATRIARCH WAS A MEMBER OF THE MAHANIKAI SECT OF THAI BUDDHISM. FLAGS WERE LOWERED TO HALF MAST FOR THREE DAYS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE TO OBSERVE THE TRADITIONAL MOURNING CUSTOMS FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.

2. SOMDEJ PHRA MAHA VIRAVONGSE OF THE THAMMAYUT SECT WAS APPOINTED ACTING PATRIARCH DECEMBER 7 JUST PRIOR TO THE SUPREME PATRIARCH'S DEATH. HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE OFFICIALLY APPOINTED SUPREME PATRIARCH AFTER THE CREMATION OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ATTENDED THE BODY-WASHING CEREMONIES DECEMBER 8, AND THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WILL BE INVITED TO FURTHER CEREMONIES DECEMBER 15.

KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELIGIOUS LEADERS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BANGKO19057  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 48  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEATH OF THE SUPREME PATRIARCH  
**TAGS:** PINR, SOCI, TH, (SOMDEJ PHRA ARIYAWONGSAKATAYAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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